

REMARKS

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Accordingly, claim 17 has been amended as kindly suggested by Examiner Batson.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kirwin (U.S. Patent No. 5,291,954).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite: “...adjusting the length of the tongue to cause a rotating of both wing sections....”. Since the Kirwin device does not adjust the wing sections while adjusting the length of the tongue, claim 1 and claims 2-10 dependent thereon are clearly allowable.

Claims 11 and 19 are hereby amended to add the limitation that the tongue has an extended and a retracted length, and that the “folding means” is “operatively attached to the tongue for rotating the at least three wing sections...” a feature not in the Kirwin device.

New claim 24 recites that “a front portion of the tongue is thereby caused to be disposed more forward than the wing sections”. The Kirwin device has the wing sections more forward than what the Examiner is reading as the tongue.

New claims 25 and 26 recite that “the forward end of the tongue is disposed in front of the wing sections so that such forward end of the tongue can be adapted to be attached to the rear of a tractor.” In contrast, the Kirwin device has the wing sections more forward than what the Examiner is reading as the tongue.

Accordingly, since all remaining claims 1–27 are believed to be clearly allowable, a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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